

Message Text

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SUBJ : DIRECT RELAY

TO: STEVE DEVEREUX
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1. I HAD USEFUL CONVERSATION SEPTEMBER 12 WITH CHARLES ITABOR. FOLLOWING HIGHLIGHTS WILL INTEREST YOU. I HAVE CABLED ALONG SIMILAR LINES TO DAVID GRAY AND GIL DE KERMEDEC.

2. ITAVBOR WILL BE PLEASED TO MEET WITH YOU AT 10:00 A.M. SEPTEMBER 25 AT THE NLTA OFFICES AT THE NATIONAL STADIUM. YOUR APPOINTMENT WITH UAC OFFICIALS IS IN PROCESS OF BEING ARRANGED. EMBASSY CAR AND DRIVER PETER WILL MEET YOU AT LAGOS AIRPORT SEPTEMBER 23. ITABOR PROMISED TO CABLE THE NIGERIAN HIGH COMMISSION IN LONDON TO AUTHORIZE YOUR VISA IN THE EVENT OF NEED. YOU SHOULD REQUEST MULTIPLE-ENTRY VISA BUT MAY HAVE TO SETTLE FOR SINGLE.

3. YOUR TENTATIVE SUGGESTIONS FOR DATES OF WEST
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AFRICAN COACHING CLINICS AND JUNIORS' TOURNAMENT
APPEAR OKAY TO ITABOR. HE LOOKS FORWARD TO FIRING UP
THESE DATES DURING YOUR VISIT.

4. ITABOR SAYS NLTA HOPES THAT JUNIORS' TOURNAMENT
CAN INCLUDE TEAMS FROM AT LEAST LIBERIA AND BENIN IN
ADDITION TO FIVE COUNTRIES ALREADY ANTICIPATED (GHANA,

TOGO, SENEGAL, CAMEROUN AND NIGERIA). HE INDICATED POSSIBLE INTEREST IN ADDITIONAL PARTICIPATION FROM GAMBIA, SIERRA LEONE AND PERHAPS UPPER VOLTA AND THE IVORY COAST. NLTA WOULD WISH THESE COUNTRIES TO BE SIMILARLY INCLUDED IN LAGOS COACHING CLINIC IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE JUNIORS' TOURNAMENT. NLTA REMAINS CONCERNED, HOWEVER, ABOUT FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR EXPANDED PARTICIPATION. ITABOR SEEMED UNENTHUSIASTIC REGARDING SUGGESTION THAT NLTA OR NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT LEAN ON VARIOUS AIRLINES AND/OR MAJOR COMMERCIAL AND BUSINESS ENTERPRISES TO PROVIDE FREE AIR TICKETS OR SPECIAL RATES. HE CLAIMED THAT DE KERMEDEC HAD GIVEN HIM TO BELIEVE THAT ITF MIGHT PAY ALL EXPENSES FOR THREE PLAYERS FROM EACH COUNTRY PARTICIPATING IN THE JUNIORS' TOURNAMENT. HE SAID HE NEEDS WRITTEN CONFIRMATION OF THIS COMMITMENT BEFORE HE CAN OFFICIALLY REQUEST HOUSING SPACE IN THE NATIONAL STADIUM DORMITORY FACILITIES. ALTHOUGH THE STANDARD DAILY RATE FOR SUCH LODGING IS SET AT 20 NAIRA, HE BELIEVES THAT IT COULD BE REDUCED TO BETWEEN 12 AND 15 NAIRA PER DAY. ONE NAIRA EQUALS APPROXIMATELY DOLS1.55. (COMMENT: COSTS WILL OBVIOUSLY COUNT IF ADDITIONAL COUNTRIES ARE INCLUDED AND IF THE LAGOS COACHING CLINIC IS EXPANDED TO INCLUDE NON-NIGERIANS. ITABOR MAINTAINS, HOWEVER, THAT THIS IS THE KIND OF SUPPORT THAT AFRICANS BELIEVE THE ITF SHOULD PROVIDE TO IMPECUNIOUS MEMBERS

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OF THE FEDERATION. PRESUMABLY TO SHOW THAT AFRICANS ARE ALREADY DOING THEIR PART, ITABOR SAID THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT WAS FINANCING VIRTUALLY ALL COSTS FOR THE ECOWAS GAMES IN BENIN BEGINNING LATE JULY 1979 AND FOR THE FOURTH NATIONAL SPORTS FESTIVAL TO BE HELD IN IBADAN IN JUNE OR JULY. HE ALSO REFERRED TO LIBYA'S COMMITMENT TO PAY ALL EXPENSES FOR THE POORER COUNTRIES WHO WOULD PARTICIPATE, UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE AFRICAN LAWN TENNIS CONFEDERATION, IN AN AFRICAN JUNIORS TENNIS TOURNAMENT TO BE HELD IN LIBYA OCTOBER 30 TO NOVEMBER 6. FOUR MALE AND FOUR FEMALE PLAYERS WOULD BE INVITED FROM EACH AFRICAN COUNTRY IN TWO AGE CATEGORIES, 18 AND UNDER, AND 15 AND UNDER.)

5. ITABOR WAS PLEASED TO LEARN OF THE LATEST PROBABLE DATES FOR THE LAGOS GRAND PRIX TOURNAMENT (FEBRUARY 26-MARCH 4). HE SAID THE NLTA WOULD SCHEDULE THE OGUN GREEN COURTS TOURNAMENT IN ABEOLUTA AND THE CLAY COURTS TOURNAMENT IN KADUNA IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER IN THE HOPE THAT SOME GRAND PRIX PLAYERS COULD REMAIN IN NIGERIA FOR THOSE EVENTS. WITH REGARD TO THE ITF REQUEST FOR EARLY INSTRUCTIONS TO ALL NIGERIAN

EMBASSIES REGARDING VISAS FOR GRANT PRIX PARTICIPANTS,
ITABOR SAID NO SUCH INSTRUCTIONS COULD BE SENT WITHOUT
A LIST OF PLAYERS.
(COMMENT: GIVEN THE UNCERTAINTIES OF KNOWING IN ADVANCE
EXACTLY WHICH PLAYERS WILL IN FACT PARTICIPATE
IN THE LAGOS TOURNAMENT, THE ITF MIGHT WISH TO SEND
THE NLTA THE LATEST ATP COMPUTER RANKING OF THE TOP
200 OR 250 PLAYERS. IF THE NLTA IN TURN SENDS COPIES
OF SUCH A LIST TO ITS MAJOR EMBASSIES, RANKED PARTICI-
PANTS SHOULD BE ASSURED OF PROMPT VISAS.)

6. NIGERIA WILL NOT RPT NOT BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN DAVIS
CUP COMPETITION AGAINST ISRAEL SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER
21-23. THE NLTA WILL SHORTLY BE SENDING OFFICIAL
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ADVICE OF THIS DECISION TO THE ITF.
EASUM

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